24th January 1928]

Agriculture

Restrictions on the export of fertilizers to foreign countries.

* 1347 Q.—Mr. C. GOPALA MENON: Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(a) whether in view of the large quantities of fertilizers that are being exported to foreign countries, he has in view any scheme for the restriction of such exports; and

(b) whether the Director of Agriculture has suggested the imposition of duty in the interests of the agricultural industry of the Presidency?

A.—The hon. Member's attention is invited to the answers to question Nos. 203 and 724 given on 3rd March 1927 and 31st March 1927 respectively.

Damages to the groundnut crops of the South Arcot district.

* 1348 Q.—Rao Bahadur K. SITARAMA REDDIYAR: With reference to the answer to question No. 1265 answered on 5th November 1927 regarding damages to the groundnut crops of the South Arcot district, will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(a) whether the information called for has been received; and

(b) what steps the Government propose to take to remedy the evil?

A.—(a) Yes. The Government are not aware of any serious pest which has done damage to the groundnut crop with the exception of the hairy caterpillar in parts of Cuddalore and Vriddhachalam taluks. To a much less extent the fungus disease known as Rizoctonia has appeared on irrigated groundnuts.

(b) The Agricultural Department has published notes in the Villagers' Calendar for 1927 regarding the method of dealing with the caterpillar. The department has also actually demonstrated the methods in two villages near Panruti in the South Arcot district. Rizoctonia is a much more difficult disease to deal with and research work is now being conducted for finding out possible soil disinfectants and resistant strains.

Committee to enquire into the working of agricultural middle schools.

* 1349 Q.—Mr. A. B. SHETTY: Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(a) whether a Committee has been appointed to enquire into the working of the agricultural middle schools;

(b) if the answer to (a) is in the affirmative, who the members of the Committee are, their qualifications and the terms of reference to the Committee;

(c) whether the Committee has been asked to co-opt some local men of the area while considering the working of schools situated in that area;

(d) whether the Committee has been asked to call for opinions of local people and also to interview some interested persons; and

(e) whether the report of the Committee will be published for criticism before action is taken on the same by the Government?

A.—No.